

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



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Agenda item 4

Country and intercountry programming and projects

COUNTRY PROGRAMME OF THE GOVERNMENT OF

SINGAPORE

Note by the Administrator

Programme period

IPF for 1972-1976

Illustrative IPF for 1977-1981

1976-1978

\$7.5 million

\$7.5 million ^{1/}

I. Nature of the programming exercise

1. The country programme exercise was carried out over the past year by the substantive Departments of the Government of Singapore and its Ministry of Finance, in close consultation with the UNDP field office. Since Singapore has no formal long-term development plan, the Ministry of Finance decided that the second country programme, like the first, should cover a three-year span (1976-1978) and address itself to immediately identifiable needs, with due consideration given to current bilateral and other multinational assistance.

^{1/} As authorized by the Governing Council at its seventeenth session (E/5466, paragraph 77 d), the illustrative IPF given in table 1 of document DP/26 has been used as the guideline for the purpose of forward planning.

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2. The selection of projects was made primarily by the Ministry of Finance. Nonetheless, numerous and valuable inputs were made by personnel of the participating agencies prior to the programming exercise proper. Their suggestions were discussed with the appropriate Government authorities. However, because the IPF funds were fully committed by projects selected by the Government itself, many agency recommendations could not be accommodated within the country programme.

3. The total cost of the country programme is \$4.1 million for the three-year programme period - a time span deliberately chosen to maintain maximum programming flexibility. As a result of actual expenditures in the 1972-1974 period and planned expenditures in the 1976-1976 period, the \$4.1 million figure for the second country programme is estimated to constitute an over-programming of some \$0.4 million over the 1972-1978 period.

II. Relation of the second country programme to the development plan of the Government

4. The policies of the Government of Singapore give particular encouragement to the expansion of capital intensive manufacturing and export oriented industries with a high degree of technological sophistication. In this connexion, and in consideration of the still important contribution to the gross domestic product of the entrepot sector, attention also is being given to the expansion and improvement of telecommunications and port and civil aviation facilities.

5. The Government is stressing the further development of the services sector, with particular reference to general working and living conditions, pollution and mass transit. In these fields, as in infrastructure improvement, a major focus is on providing the necessary facilities to produce the trained personnel required at all levels.

6. UNDP assistance relates to Government objectives through the support of projects in such fields as industrial development, technical and management training, science and technology, transport and telecommunications infrastructure, industrial waste water treatment, animal waste management and meat and fish hygiene control. Most of these projects represent efforts to expand already existing institutes or contribute to on-going Government programmes to enable them to meet emerging economic and social needs.

III. Content and phasing of the second country programme

7. The largest UNDP inputs in quantitative terms go to the health and to the transport and communications sectors. The input in the health sector consists of two new projects. The first is a project to control water pollution caused by

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animal wastes and the second is a project to develop an effective meat and fish hygiene control system. Both projects stem from a completed UNDP/FAO project on pig and poultry research and training and are important inputs because they cover areas where only limited activities have been carried out thus far.

8. In the transport and communications sector, there are two new large-scale projects covering key inputs in the context of Singapore's development objectives: namely, a Civil Aviation Centre and a Telecommunications Test and Development Centre. Additional large-scale assistance is being requested for on-going efforts in telecommunications training and the development of a mass transit system.

9. The industrial sector represents the third largest area of UNDP involvement. Assistance is requested for two Government industry supporting institutions to attain higher levels of sophistication; i.e., the National Productivity Board and the Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research. In both cases the projects are substantially more than institution building. Both institutions are already well established and UNDP assistance is aimed at developing new specialized areas of competence. In the field of science and technology, additional assistance is being requested to help the Singapore Polytechnic broaden its range of courses.

Table I
Sectoral breakdown of on-going and new projects

<u>Sector</u>	<u>On-going projects</u>		<u>New projects</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Value</u> <u>(\$'000)</u>	<u>Per</u> <u>cent</u>	<u>Value</u> <u>(\$'000)</u>	<u>Per</u> <u>cent</u>	<u>Value</u> <u>(\$'000)</u>	<u>Per</u> <u>cent</u>
General economic, social policy and planning	84	7	240	8	324	8
Health	-	-	1,313	45	1,313	32
Industry	325	28	444	15	769	18
Labour	-	-	76	3	76	2
Science & technology	175	15	150	5	325	8
Transport & communications	599	50	723	24	1,322	32
Total programmed	1,183	1,100	2,946	100	4,129	100

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10. The large-scale projects are complemented by a number of small-scale efforts. For example, specialized industrial services will be provided to the Institute of Standards and Industrial Research, which is also being aided by a large-scale project. A small-scale project of training for telecommunications engineers complements large-scale efforts in this field.

11. The relatively small size of some projects is not a parameter for evaluating their potential impact. The International Tax Programme project is expected to contribute substantially to the upgrading and improving of the tax structure as well as leading to more equitable income distribution. The Occupational Safety and Health project aims to bring about safer and healthier working conditions, thus realizing an important social goal in the industrial sector. The Export Credit Insurance project is designed to help Singapore structure an insurance corporation to cover the risks faced by exporters and is part of the broad effort to stimulate exports.

12. Relevant to the development of port facilities is a small-scale Port Management Training project, designed to assist the Singapore Port Authority to develop an Institute of Port Studies. The Pilot Examiner and Flight Operations efforts will help upgrade air transportation standards.

Table 2

Sectoral breakdown by size of project

<u>Sector</u>	<u>Large-scale projects</u>			<u>Small-scale projects</u>		
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Value (\$'000)</u>	<u>Per cent</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Value (\$'000)</u>	<u>Per cent</u>
General economic, social policy and planning	-	-	-	5	324	36
Health	2	1,233	38	1	80	9
Industry	2	689	21	1	80	9
Labour	-	-	-	1	76	9
Science & technology	1	175	5	1	150	17
Transport & communications	4	1,148	36	4	174	20
Total programmed	9	3,245	100	13	884	100

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13. A majority of the projects in the country programme of the Government of Singapore represent highly specialized or technologically advanced inputs. In this respect, they offer the kind of assistance which can have the maximum impact on Singapore's rapidly developing economy at this time.

Table 3
Phasing of the country programme

A. Amounts programmed

<u>Year</u>	<u>(\$'000)</u>
1976	1,796
1977	1,521
1978	812
Undistributed funds for programming within the country programme period	<u> </u>
Total	<u>4,129</u>

B. Assumed resources

IPF 1972-1976 (\$7.5 million) minus actual expenditures 1972-1974 and estimated actual expenditures in 1975 (\$6.781 million)	719
Two-fifths of the illustrative IPF 1977-1981 (\$7.5 million)	<u>3,000</u>
Total	<u>3,719</u>

IV. Recommendation of the Administrator

14. In light of the views expressed above, the Administrator recommends that the Governing Council:

(a) Approve the proposed UNDP country programme for Singapore within the limit of its approved IPF for 1972-1976 and its illustrative IPF for 1977-1981 and for the duration of its programme period; and

(b) Authorize the Administrator to proceed with appraisal and approval action on requests for assistance falling within the outlines of the country programme while ensuring, in accordance with the decision of the Governing Council at its eighteenth session (E/5543/Rev. 1, paragraph 31), that expenditure are kept in reasonable conformity with the relevant IPFs and are contained within the financial resources available at any given time.